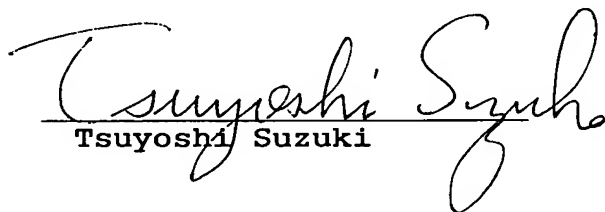


5N 10/686 482



I, Tsuyoshi Suzuki, residing at 6-3-4-301,
Chuoh-Rinkan, Yamato-shi, Kanagawa 242-0007, Japan, and working
for ISP Corporation of 1-29, Akashi-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0044,
Japan, fully conversant with the English and Japanese languages,
do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief
the following is a true translation of Japanese Patent
Application No. 2002-364742 filed in the Japanese Patent Office
on the 17th day of December, 2002 in respect of an application
for Letters Patent.

Signed, this 16th day of May, 2005


Tsuyoshi Suzuki



(2)

[Name of Document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] Oil-diluting Fuel Estimating
Apparatus and Internal Combustion Engine Control System
Using the Same

[Claims]

[Claim 1] An oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating
apparatus for calculating the quantify of an oil-diluting
fuel that leans out through a clearance between a piston and
a cylinder, characterized in that

the oil-diluting fuel quantity is calculated in
accordance with an oil-diluting fuel index set for every
predetermined temperature region of an engine.

[Claim 2] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating
apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the
oil-diluting fuel index is set so as to be variable
according to the engine temperature history.

[Claim 3] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating
apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that
the apparatus comprises increase quantity calculating means
for calculating the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel
and decrease quantity calculating means for calculating the
decrease quantity of oil-diluting fuel, and, after the oil-
diluting fuel index is updated by using the increase
quantity of oil-diluting fuel and the decrease quantity of
oil-diluting fuel, the oil-diluting fuel quantity is
calculated in accordance with the updated oil-diluting fuel
index.

[Claim 4] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel calculated by the increase quantity calculating means is calculated in accordance with an engine temperature, engine rotational speed, and engine load.

[Claim 5] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel calculated by the increase quantity calculating means is added uniformly to the oil-diluting fuel indexes.

[Claim 6] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to any one of claims 3 to 5, characterized in that the decrease quantity of oil-diluting fuel calculated by the decrease quantity calculating means is calculated in accordance with an engine temperature and engine rotational speed.

[Claim 7] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the temperature of engine oil is used as the engine temperature.

[Claim 8] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the apparatus includes an alcohol concentration calculating means for calculating the alcohol concentration in the fuel from the difference of air-fuel; and

an alcohol concentration calculation permitting condition for permitting the calculation of alcohol concentration is set in accordance with the oil-diluting fuel quantity when a fuel in which alcohol is mixed in gasoline is used.

[Claim 9] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that when by the alcohol concentration calculation permitting condition, at least either one of the condition that the oil-diluting fuel quantity is not larger than a predetermined value and the condition that a variation in oil-diluting fuel quantity is not larger than a predetermined value is satisfied, the calculation of alcohol concentration is permitted.

[Claim 10] The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the oil-diluting fuel quantity is corrected in accordance with the quantity of fuel injected actually from an engine.

[Claim 11] An internal combustion engine control system characterized by correcting the fuel injection quantity in accordance with the oil-diluting fuel quantity calculated by the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in any one of claims 1 to 10.

[0001]

[Technical Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to an oil-diluting fuel

estimating apparatus and an internal combustion engine control system using the apparatus.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

In an internal combustion engine, what is called oil dilution in which fuel leaks out through a clearance between a piston and a cylinder and dilutes engine oil may sometimes take place. As measures for restraining the occurrence of such oil dilution, a control system has conventionally been known in which in the case where fuel injection is effected in the intake stroke in in-cylinder direct fuel injection type internal combustion engine, fuel injection start timing is changed based on a parameter representing ease of adhesion of fuel to the internal combustion engine (refer to Patent Document 1).

[0003]

[Patent Document 1]

Japanese Patent Application *Kokai* Publication No. 2002-13428 (pages 3 -4, Figure 3)

[0004]

[Problemsto be Solved by the Invention]

The volatilization of fuel mixed in the engine oil occurs in various ways, the boiling point having a width wider than 30°C to 150°C. Also, the fuel adheres to the wall surface of combustion chamber and is mixed in the oil. At this time, a high boiling point component with low volatility melts in the oil without being burned or

evaporated, or easily remains as it is, so that evaporation is not promoted unless the engine oil temperature rises considerably in the engine operating condition. Thus, even if warming up is finished at water temperature after engine starting, when the oil temperature is almost equal to the water temperature, much oil-diluting fuel exists. For example, even when the oil temperature is further raised by uphill running after completed warming up, the fuel evaporates from the oil, and is sucked into the engine. Therefore, an error of air-fuel ratio occurs, and hence there arise problems such as mistaken learning in air-fuel ratio learning control and mistaken diagnosis easily occurring in fuel system diagnosis.

[0005]

In particular, in a motor vehicle called a flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) which can run not only on gasoline but also on a blended fuel of various compositions of alcohol and gasoline, a system for estimating the concentration of alcohol by using the equivalence ratio difference has been proposed at a low cost. However, the quickness of estimation and the accuracy of concentration estimation are required at the time when the fuel is replaced with a different fuel type. The conventional method is not fully satisfactory because an influence of fuel evaporating from the oil remains. Therefore, the correction of engine control quantity using the alcohol concentration estimation result, for example, the ignition timing accuracy due to a

difference in combustion velocity depending on fuel or the accuracy of air-fuel ratio at the transient time is not insufficient because of improper wall flow correction due to a difference in volatility, so that there arise problems of deteriorated variations in exhaust control, and deteriorated operability such as hesitation and surge.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problems]

The oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus in accordance with the present invention is characterized in that an oil-diluting fuel quantity is calculated in accordance with an oil-diluting fuel index set for every predetermined temperature region of engine.

[0007]

[Effects of the Invention]

According to the present invention, since the mixing and evaporating state of oil-diluting fuel quantity is found for every temperature region, in any engine operation history and environment change history, a condition that the oil-diluting fuel has no influence, namely, a state in which the oil-diluting fuel has no influence can be detected.

[Embodiments of the Invention]

One embodiment of the present invention will now be explained in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0008]

Figure 1 shows a schematic configuration of an

internal combustion engine control system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. A combustion chamber 2 of an engine body 1 is connected with an intake air passage 4 via an intake valve 3 and with an exhaust passage 6 via an exhaust valve 5.

[0009]

In the intake air passage 4, an air cleaner 7, an air flowmeter 8 for detecting the quantity of intake air, a throttle valve 9 for controlling the quantity of intake air, and a fuel injection valve 11 for injecting fuel into the intake air are disposed.

[0010]

The fuel injection valve 11 injects fuel into the intake air in accordance with operating conditions by means of an injection command signal sent from an engine control unit (hereinafter abbreviated to ECU) 12 so that a predetermined air-fuel ratio is provided.

[0011]

In the exhaust passage 6, an oxygen concentration sensor 13 for detecting the concentration of oxygen in exhaust gas and a three-way catalyst 14 are disposed.

[0012]

The three-way catalyst 14 can purify NOx, HC and CO in exhaust gas at the same time with the maximum conversion efficiency in the case where the air-fuel ratio lies in what is called a window around the stoichiometric air-fuel ratio. Therefore, the ECU 12 carries out feedback control of air-

fuel ratio so that the air-fuel ratio of exhaust gas swings with a fixed period within the aforementioned window based on the output from the oxygen concentration sensor 13 provided on the upstream side of the three-way catalyst 14.

[0013]

Also, the ECU 12 receives signals from a water temperature sensor 15 for sensing the temperature of cooling water for the engine body 1, a crank angle sensor 16 for sensing an engine rotational speed, an outside air temperature sensor 17 for sensing an outside air temperature, and a vehicle speed sensor 18 for sensing a vehicle speed.

[0014]

When what is called oil dilution, in which some of the fuel adheres to the inside wall surface of the cylinder and leaks out through the clearance between the piston and the cylinder to dilute an engine oil during the engine operation, takes place, the quantity of fuel burning in the combustion chamber 2 decreases. Therefore, the air-fuel ratio becomes excessively lean (air rich), which may exert an adverse influence on the operability and emission control. Also, if the fuel that dilutes the engine oil by means of oil dilution evaporates from the engine oil and is sucked into an intake system through a blowby system etc., the air-fuel ratio becomes excessively rich (fuel rich), which may exert an adverse influence on the operability and emission control.

[0015]

Also, the increase in oil-diluting fuel is reduced

with an increase in engine temperature (increase in combustion chamber temperature). Inversely, with an increase in engine temperature (increase in oil temperature), vaporization or evaporation of oil-diluting fuel mixed in the engine oil is promoted. However, the vaporization of oil-diluting fuel changes according to the component (light or heavy) of fuel. That is to say, even if a light component mixes in the engine oil, vaporization occurs from a relatively low temperature. However, even at a relatively high temperature, a heavy component is difficult to vaporize when mixing in the engine oil. Therefore, the quantity of oil-diluting fuel mixed in the engine oil changes depending on the history of oil temperature from just after starting.

[0016]

Thereupon, in the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, an oil-diluting fuel quantity OF of fuel mixed in the engine oil by means of oil dilution is estimated by a procedure described below.

[0017]

A flowchart shown in Figure 2 shows the whole of a process for determining the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF, the process being executed every predetermined time.

[0018]

In Step 1 (hereinafter, Step is abbreviated to S) consisting of a first subroutine (described later in detail), an increase quantity A of oil-diluting fuel quantity is

calculated.

[0019]

In S2 consisting of a second subroutine (described later in detail), an evaporation rate of oil-diluting fuel from the oil, namely, a decrease rate B of oil-diluting fuel quantity is calculated.

[0020]

In S3 and S4, the content (oil-diluting fuel index) of an oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF (described later) based on an oil temperature TO is updated by using the increase quantity A of oil-diluting fuel quantity calculated in S1 and the decrease quantity B of oil-diluting fuel quantity calculated in S2.

[0021]

Figure 3 is an explanatory view schematically showing the oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF. In this figure, an oil temperature region is set for every predetermined temperature region, for example, for every temperature of 0 (°C) to 10 (°C), and the whole of the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF is estimated from the sum of the oil-diluting fuel quantity (oil-diluting fuel index) in temperature region for every temperature region, namely, the area of a region between a characteristic line shown in Figure 3 and the axis of abscissa in Figure 3. Each of the oil temperature regions corresponds to the component (light or heavy) of fuel mixed in the engine oil. The residual quantity of oil-diluting fuel of a heavy component (having a

high boiling point and being less liable to evaporate) is represented toward the right-hand direction of the axis of abscissa in Figure 3.

[0022]

As shown in Figure 3, the oil-diluting fuel quantity of every temperature component, which is mixed in the engine oil, changes according to the history of oil temperature from just after starting. Specifically, the light component of oil-diluting fuel increases just after starting, even at a relatively low temperature, the evaporated light component of oil-diluting fuel is more than the accumulated heavy component, and the oil-diluting fuel quantity tends to decrease. After a warming up state has been finished, when an oil temperature of, for example, M ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) is reached by a certain temperature history, the light component is completely vaporized, so that the quantity of further vaporizing fuel is as small as m . On the other hand, even if the warming up state has been finished, when the oil temperature further rises to N ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), the heavy component also has a vaporizable temperature. Therefore, the quantity of vaporizing fuel becomes as large as n .

[0023]

Thereupon, in S3, for all temperature regions in the oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF, the increase quantity A calculated in S1 is added and increased. Next, in S4, a value allotted to a temperature region lower than the current oil temperature T_0 is updated as $[\text{New value}] = [\text{Old}$

value] - [Old value] x B. The new value means the oil-diluting fuel quantity of every temperature component after updating, and the old value means the oil-diluting fuel quantity of every temperature component before updating.

[0024]

This oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF is a memory that is battery backed up and is not erased even when the engine is stopped. This table can store the oil-diluting fuel quantity irrespective of the number of engine starts.

[0025]

In S5, the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF is calculated from the updated oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF.

[0026]

Figure 4 shows a control flow of the aforementioned first subroutine.

[0027]

In S11, a fuel fall rate C, which is an increase rate of the increase quantity A, is calculated for each temperature region in the oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF by referring to an MOFD map (described later). Figure 5 shows a characteristic example of the MOFD map. This MOFD map is designed to calculate the fuel fall rate C from a cylinder wall temperature TC (described later in detail) used as an engine temperature and an engine rotational speed Ne. The fuel fall rate C increases as the engine rotational speed decreases, and also the fuel fall rate C increases as the cylinder wall temperature TC becomes lower. The reason

for this is that it is thought that in a low engine rotation, the gas motion is lower, and the evaporation and atomization of fuel are poor, so that the fuel is more likely to adhere to the wall surface. Also, the cylinder wall temperature TC depends on the volatility of fuel.

[0028]

In S12, a load correction ratio D is calculated by referring to a load correction table (described later). Figure 6 shows a characteristic example of the load correction table. The load correction table is designed to calculate the load correction ratio D from a base fuel injection quantity T_p (described later) determined from an intake air quantity Q_a obtained from the output of the air flowmeter 8 as an engine load and the engine rotational speed N_e . At higher load, the proportion of unburned fuel increases, so that the load correction ratio D takes a larger value. The reason for this is that it is thought that a change in fuel volatility caused by a pressure has an influence.

[0029]

In S13, the increase quantity A is calculated for each temperature region in the oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF by using the fuel fall rate C, the load correction ratio D, the engine rotational speed N_e , and a fuel injection quantity T_e determined by engine operating conditions as an engine load.

[0030]

Figure 7 shows a control flow of the aforementioned second subroutine. In the second subroutine, in S21, the decrease rate B, which is an evaporation ratio of oil-diluting fuel from the engine oil, is calculated by referring to an MOFU map (described later). Figure 8 shows a characteristic example of the MOFU map. This MOFU map is designed to calculate the decrease rate B from an oil temperature T_O and the engine rotational speed N_e . The correlation between the decrease rate and the oil temperature T_O is such that because of the volatility of fuel, the decrease rate B increases as the oil temperature T_O becomes higher. Also, the correlation between the decrease rate and the engine rotational speed N_e is such that the decrease rate B increases as the engine rotational speed N_e increases because the evaporation of fuel in the engine oil is promoted by the circulating agitation of oil with an oil pump and the oil agitation caused by a counterweight of a crankshaft.

[0031]

Next, Figure 9 shows a control flow for predicting the cylinder wall temperature T_C used for calculating the increase quantity A.

[0032]

First, in S31, it is judged whether or not the engine is in an engine starting operation or in an operation of first supplying electricity to the ECU 12. In the case of the engine starting operation or the operation of first

supplying electricity to the ECU 12, the control proceeds to S32, where an initial value TC_0 of the cylinder wall temperature TC is set so as to be equal to an engine cooling water temperature T_w for preparation for temperature increase in the calculation in the next cycle.

[0033]

If it is judged in S31 that neither the engine starting operation nor the ECU first energizing operation is detected, the control proceeds to S33, where it is judged whether or not a fuel cutoff operation is in progress in the engine. If the engine is under the fuel cutoff operation, the control proceeds to S34, and if the engine is not under the fuel cutoff operation, the control proceeds to S35.

[0034]

When the engine is in the fuel cutoff state, the cylinder wall temperature TC converges toward the engine cooling water temperature T_w . In S34, therefore, a temperature increase balance temperature TCH from the engine cooling water temperature T_w is set so as to be equal to zero ($TCH = 0$).

[0035]

On the other hand, when the engine is not in the fuel cutoff state, in S35, the temperature increase balance temperature TCH, which is a temperature difference between the cylinder wall temperature TC and the engine cooling water temperature T_w , is calculated by referring to an MTCH map (described later). Figure 10 shows a characteristic

example of the MTCH map. This MTCH map is designed to calculate the temperature increase balance temperature TCH by using the engine rotational speed N_e and the base fuel injection quantity T_p . The temperature increase balance temperature TCH correlates strongly with the combustion temperature. Therefore, the temperature increase balance temperature TCH takes a larger value as the engine rotational speed increases and as the base fuel injection quantity T_p , namely, the engine load increases.

[0036]

In S36, a temperature change rate KTC corresponding to a time constant of temperature is calculated by referring to a KTC map (described later). Figure 11 shows a characteristic example of the KTC map. This KTC map is designed to calculate the temperature change rate KTC by using the engine rotational speed N_e and the base fuel injection quantity T_p . The temperature change rate KTC is subjected to a great influence of the engine rotational speed N_e because the gas flow velocity is predominant in the heat transmission to cylinder wall. Moreover, the temperature change rate KTC has sensitivity to the base fuel injection quantity T_p or the engine load because of the influence on heat transmission by the pressure. Thus, the temperature change rate KTC takes a larger value as the engine rotational speed N_e increases and as the base fuel injection quantity T_p increases.

[0037]

In this embodiment, a method has been proposed in which the temperature increase balance temperature TCH and the temperature change rate KTC are calculated by using the map of the engine rotational speed Ne and the base fuel injection quantity Tp. However, if the required accuracy is relatively low, it is possible to prepare calculation tables based on the intake air quantity Qa, which is the detection signal from the air flowmeter, respectively, for TCH and KTC and to determine TCH and KTC by using the corresponding calculation table.

[0038]

Next, in S37, an instantaneous predicted temperature DTC is determined from the temperature increase balance temperature TCH and the temperature change rate KTC. This predicted temperature DTC represents a temperature difference from the engine cooling water temperature Tw, and is given by the equation $DTC_n = DTC_{n-1} + (TCH - DTC_{n-1}) \times KTC$. This equation is in the form of a first order lag. The predicted temperature DTC follows the temperature increase balance temperature TCH with a first order lag. The form of first order is employed because it is thought that the temperature varies theoretically with a constant rate because of balance with escape of heat. The predicted temperature was regarded as having a rising waveform similar to a rising waveform of a valve temperature which was measured by the inventors of the present invention. In the above equation, DTC_{n-1} is a predicted temperature calculated

in the previous calculation cycle.

[0039]

In S38, a value obtained by adding the predicted temperature DTC_n calculated in S37 to the engine cooling water temperature T_w is taken as the cylinder wall temperature TC_n . Then, the prediction of the cylinder wall temperature TC is finished. That is to say, each of the temperature increase balance temperature TCH and the predicted temperature DTC is an amount of temperature increase from the engine cooling water temperature T_w , and therefore the engine cooling water temperature T_w is added finally.

[0040]

In this embodiment, an example in which the cylinder wall temperature TC is predicted has been shown. This is because the system is provided at a low cost. To provide higher accuracy, it is optional to employ a temperature sensor embedded in the cylinder to directly sense the cylinder wall temperature.

[0041]

Next, Figure 12 shows a control flow for predicting the oil temperature TO used for calculating the oil decrease rate B (the evaporation rate of oil-diluting fuel) by using the MOFU map of Figure 8.

[0042]

In S41, it is judged whether or not the engine is in an engine starting operation or in an operation of first

supplying electricity to the ECU 12. In the case of the engine starting operation or the operation of first supplying electricity to the ECU 12, the control proceeds to S42, where a value TO_0 is set so as to be equal to the engine cooling water temperature Tw .

[0043]

If it is judged in S41 that neither the engine starting operation nor the ECU first energizing operation is detected, the control proceeds to S43.

[0044]

In S43, a heat flow quantity TTW of the engine oil and the engine cooling water is calculated by using the engine cooling water temperature Tw , $TTWS$, and a previous oil temperature TO_{n-1} at the calculation time in the previous cycle as given by the equation $TTW_n = (Tw - TO_{n-1}) \times TTWS$. That is to say, the heat transfer quantity is proportional to a temperature difference, and is a function of a flow velocity. Therefore, in this equation, the temperature difference is multiplied by $TTWS$ determined from the engine rotational speed Ne .

[0045]

Figure 13 shows a characteristic example of a $TTWS$ calculation table. $TTWS$ takes a larger value in proportion to the engine rotational speed Ne . The engine rotational speed Ne is used to calculate $TTWS$ because the heat transfer between the engine cooling water or the cylinder block and cylinder head, which are in contact with engine cooling

water, and engine oil is proportional to the engine rotational speed N_e that turns the oil pump. Also, heat transmitted from the oil pan can be taken into account by correcting the characteristic of Figure 13 by an appropriate amount.

[0046]

In S44, a heat flow quantity TTC with combustion is calculated by using the engine cooling water temperature T_w , $TTCT$, and $TTCN$ as given in the equation $TTC_n = (TTCT - TO_{n-1}) \times TTCN$.

[0047]

Figure 14 shows a characteristic example of a $TTCT$ calculation table, and Figure 15 shows a characteristic example of a $TTCN$ calculation table. $TTCT$ represents a piston cylinder wall temperature, and is related with the combustion temperature. Therefore, $TTCT$ is determined from the calculation table of Figure 14 by using the product of the fuel injection quantity T_e and the engine rotational speed N_e . $TTCN$ represents an engine oil flow velocity for heat transmission, and is determined from the calculation table of Figure 15 by using the engine rotational speed N_e .

[0048]

In S45, a heat release quantity TTA to the outside air is calculated by the equation $TTA_n = (TO_{n-1} - T_a) \times TTAVSP$. T_a represents an outside air temperature that is an output signal from the outside air temperature sensor 17, and $TTAVSP$ represents a flow velocity for heat transmission

determined from an output signal VSP (vehicle speed) from the vehicle speed sensor 18. Figure 16 shows a characteristic example of a TTAVSP calculation table.

[0049]

In S46, the oil temperature TO_n is calculated by the equation $TO_n = TO_{n-1} + TTW_n + TTC_n - TTA_n$. This equation is obtained by modeling a phenomenon that the engine oil is warmed by the engine cooling water and the piston cylinder due to combustion, and is cooled by wind due to vehicle running (and engine cooling water).

[0050]

The thus-obtained oil temperature TO is used to calculate the evaporation rate of oil-diluting fuel.

[0051]

In this embodiment, an example in which the oil temperature TO is predicted has been shown to provide the system at a low cost. However, to provide higher accuracy, it is optional to employ a temperature sensor to directly sense the engine oil temperature.

[0052]

Also, in this embodiment, the outside temperature Ta is used to cool the oil pan, and warm air from a radiator is neglected. However, in the case of a vehicle in which the warm air from the radiator is influential, it is possible to improve the accuracy by modifying Ta in consideration of the warm air from the radiator.

[0053]

In the thus-constructed oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus, since the mixing and evaporating state of oil-diluting fuel quantity is found for every temperature region, in any engine operation history and environment change history, a condition that the oil-diluting fuel has no influence, namely, a state in which the oil-diluting fuel has no influence can be detected.

[0054]

Also, the oil-diluting fuel quantity (oil-diluting fuel index) in temperature region for every temperature region is set so as to be variable according to the engine temperature history or the engine temperature, in other words, the oil temperature. Therefore, the oil-diluting fuel quantity can be estimated exactly. Describing in more detail, the oil-diluting fuel quantity (oil-diluting fuel index) in temperature region, which is allotted to the temperature region having a temperature not higher than the oil temperature during operation, is operated in the decrease direction, by which a condition that the oil-diluting fuel evaporates little can surely detected.

[0055]

The increase quantity A of oil-diluting fuel is increased for all temperature regions uniformly irrespective of the current temperature. Even in such a simple method in which the increase is uniform irrespective of the volatility distribution of gasoline fuel, a condition that the oil-diluting fuel evaporates little can be detected. In the

case where only accuracy is pursued, for example, a method can be thought in which only an unburned fuel component is predicted, and the table value is increased by the volatilization temperature distribution. However, since the unburned combustion component varies greatly according to the operating condition, accuracy is eventually difficult to achieve. As in the aforementioned first embodiment, the uniform increase handles the oil-diluting fuel in rather large amounts, which tends to make mistaken learning difficult to occur.

[0056]

In the aforementioned first embodiment, the decrease in oil-diluting fuel quantity caused by evaporation is reduced uniformly irrespective of the temperature region. However, it is also possible to decrease the oil-diluting fuel quantity less in a region higher than the current temperature region, and much in a region lower than the current temperature region. By doing so, a fuel evaporating at a temperature not higher than the boiling point can also be handled.

[0057]

Next, a second embodiment of the present invention will be explained. In the second embodiment, the oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus in the above-described first embodiment is mounted on an engine carrying out the air-fuel ratio control, and a fuel injection pulse width T_i calculated by using the fuel injection quantity T_e

determined by the engine operating condition is corrected in accordance with the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF calculated by the oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus.

[0058]

Figure 17 is a flowchart showing a specific control flow in the second embodiment.

[0059]

In S51, the base fuel injection quantity T_p is calculated. The base fuel injection quantity T_p is calculated by using the engine rotational speed N_e and the intake air quantity Q_a obtained from the output of the air flowmeter 8 and by multiplying a per-engine-rotation intake air quantity (Q_a/N_e) by a predetermined constant K . The base fuel injection quantity T_p is the basis of calculation of the aforementioned fuel injection quantity T_e and is a representative value of engine load.

[0060]

In S52, an air-fuel ratio correction coefficient K_{MR} is calculated from a map of the engine rotational speed N_e and the throttle valve opening degree. The map for calculating the air-fuel ratio correction coefficient K_{MR} is stored in advance in the ECU 12.

[0061]

In S53, a water temperature enrichment coefficient K_{TW} is calculated from a table of the engine cooling water temperature T_w . The table for calculating the water temperature enrichment coefficient K_{TW} is stored in advance

in the ECU 12.

[0062]

In S54, a target fuel-air ratio equivalence quantity TFBYA is calculated by using the oil fall rate C and load correction ratio D calculated by the aforementioned oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus as given by the equation $TFBYA = 1 + KMR + KTR + (C \times D \times GUB)$. In this equation, GUB is set as $GUB = (H1 + H2) / H2$, where H1 is a quantity discharged into the exhaust system, and H2 is a quantity of oil-diluting fuel. GUB is equal to about 1.6, for example. Some of fuel adhering to the cylinder wall is scraped off by the piston and turns to the oil-diluting fuel that dilutes the engine oil, and some of fuel adhering to the cylinder wall is discarded from the exhaust system without being burned. For this reason, the predetermined constant GUB is used for multiplication to take into account the fuel discarded from the exhaust system without being used in combustion.

[0063]

In S55, the fuel injection quantity T_e is calculated by using the equation $T_e = T_p \times TFBYA \times \alpha \times \alpha_m \times KTR$. In this equation, α is an air-fuel ratio feedback correction coefficient, which is calculated based on an output signal sent from the oxygen concentration sensor 13 by another flowchart apart from the flowchart of Figure 16. Moreover, α_m is an air-fuel ratio learning correction coefficient calculated based on α , and KTR is a transient correction

coefficient representing a correction quantity of fuel flowing on the wall.

[0064]

In S56, the fuel injection pulse width T_i , which is a pulse width required to inject the aforementioned fuel injection quantity T_e , is calculated by using the equation $T_i = T_e \times KWJ + T_s$. In this equation, KWJ is an injection quantity correction coefficient, and T_s is an ineffective pulse width for correction of a difference between the energizing time of the fuel injection valve 11 and the actual fuel injection time.

[0065]

In S57, the fuel injection pulse width T_i is output to control the fuel injection valve 11 to carry out the fuel injection with the fuel injection pulse width T_i .

[0066]

In the above-described second embodiment of the present invention, it is possible to reduce the memory capacity of the ECU 12 and to reduce the manpower for adaptation by making the enrichment correction for unburned fuel by using the maps and tables for the oil-diluting fuel quantity estimation in common.

[0067]

In the second embodiment, the fuel injection pulse width T_i is corrected by paying attention to the increase quantity A of the oil-diluted fuel quantity. However, it is possible to correct the fuel injection pulse width T_i by

paying attention to the increase quantity A and the decrease quantity B. Also, in the MTCH map (Figure 10) and the KTC map (Figure 11), it is possible to use the fuel injection quantity T_e in place of the base fuel injection quantity T_p . In this case, the oil-diluted fuel quantity is corrected in accordance with the fuel injection quantity T_e actually injected for the engine.

[0068]

Next, a third embodiment of the present invention will be explained.

[0069]

At present, engines of many motor vehicles can burn gasoline containing alcohol of a low concentration. Also, in recent years, a vehicle called a flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) has widely been known which can run not only on gasoline but also on a blended fuel of various compositions of alcohol and gasoline.

[0070]

Alcohol fuel requires a large fuel injection quantity to obtain the same equivalence ratio as compared with gasoline because of the number of atoms of C (carbon), H (hydrogen), and O (oxygen). Therefore, the concentration of alcohol in the fuel is predicted accurately as quickly as possible by utilizing a difference in feedback control coefficient due to the oxygen concentration sensor 13, namely, a difference in air-fuel ratio.

[0071]

Thereupon, in the third embodiment, there is explained a case where the techniques of the above-described first and second embodiments are applied to an internal combustion engine using a fuel containing alcohol.

[0072]

Figure 18 is a flowchart showing a control flow for estimating the alcohol concentration in the third embodiment.

[0073]

In S61, the air-fuel ratio feedback correction coefficient α calculated based on an output signal sent from the oxygen concentration sensor 13 is read from another flowchart apart from the flowchart of Figure 17.

[0074]

In S62, the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF at the current temperature is calculated from the oil temperature TO by referring to the oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF.

[0075]

In S63, it is judged whether or not the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF calculated in S61 is smaller than a predetermined estimation permitting dilution quantity LOF#. Only if the quantity OF is smaller, the control proceeds to S64, and if not, the control proceeds to S66.

[0076]

In S64, it is judged whether or not another learning condition is satisfied. Regarding the prohibition of learning condition, not only the oil-diluting fuel quantity but also another condition having been used conventionally

is judged, and the learning value is updated. As the prohibition condition examples, a low water temperature, overheat time, α feedback time, canister purge cut time, time when purge concentration is low, acceleration time, and the like are known.

[0077]

Also, generally, the learning value is often in the case of a map of the engine rotational speed N_e and the load T_p , and, although being shown typically, is not specified in this specification.

[0078]

Thus, irrespective of the update of learning value, the learning value is retrieved, and is used for fuel injection quantity control as α_m .

[0079]

In S65, a map value in an α_m calculation map for each operating region is rewritten.

[0080]

In S66, a value of α_m in each operating region is determined by referring to the current α_m map for each operating region.

[0081]

In S67, the oil-diluting fuel quantity OF at the current temperature is calculated from the oil temperature TO by referring to the oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF .

[0082]

In S68, it is judged whether or not the oil-diluting

fuel quantity OF calculated in S67 is smaller than the predetermined estimation permitting dilution quantity LOF#. If the quantity OF is smaller, the control transfers to a path permitting the alcohol concentration estimation on the assumption that the influence of fuel evaporated from the engine oil is little. The alcohol concentration estimation requires another permitting condition (S69). In this embodiment, when conditions such as the engine cooling water temperature, elapsed time after the start of engine, a progress of air-fuel ratio learning control, and the record of past refueling are met, the alcohol concentration is estimated (S70).

[0083]

In S70, an average of α_m in representative speed load regions of α_m in operating regions is calculated. Specifically, the average of α_m is determined from the values of four or so speed load regions, and the alcohol concentration is calculated from a table shown in Figure 19 by using the above result. In this case, regions which are used relatively frequently by the engine and in which the intake air quantity is not so small are selected as the aforementioned four regions. By doing so, regions having a relatively large intake air quantity, which secure the frequency of learning and are less liable to be subjected to an influence of oil-diluting fuel evaporating from the engine oil, are selected.

[0084]

In S71, a fuel system diagnosis is carried out by using the average of α_m . Specifically, it is judged whether or not the average of α_m lies within a range that is larger than a predetermined diagnosis lower limit value and smaller than a predetermined diagnosis upper limit value. If the average of α_m lies within the above range, the control proceeds to S72, where the diagnosis is regarded as all right. If the average of α_m lies out of the above range, the control proceeds to S73, where the diagnosis is regarded as no good. In this example, the fuel system diagnosis is a diagnosis of parts that determine fuel flow rates of the air flowmeter, fuel injection valve, and the like, the diagnosis being carried out by using the air-fuel ratio learning correction coefficient α_m , which is a learning value. For example, the average of α_m of 80 is taken as the diagnosis lower limit value, and the average of α_m of 180 is taken as the diagnosis upper limit value.

[0085]

Thus, in the third embodiment of the present invention, in the case where the oil-diluting fuel quantity is smaller than the predetermined value (estimation permitting dilution quantity LOF#), the vaporization of fuel is little, and the influence on air-fuel ratio variation is little, the alcohol concentration estimation, air-fuel ratio learning control, and fuel system diagnosis are permitted.

[0086]

Therefore, by carrying out the engine control by using

the thus-obtained air-fuel ratio learning correction coefficient α_m and the alcohol concentration estimation value, the accuracy of control is made high because of not being subjected to an influence of evaporation of oil-diluting fuel quantity, so that an engine with excellent exhaust control and operability can be provided.

[0087]

Technical concepts of the present invention capable of being grasped from the above-described embodiments are listed together with the effects of the present invention.

[0088]

(1) The oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus calculates the quantity of oil-diluting fuel, which leaks out through the clearance between the piston and the cylinder and dilutes the engine oil, in accordance with the oil-diluting fuel index set in each predetermined temperature region of engine. Thereby, since the mixing and evaporating state of oil-diluting fuel quantity is found for every temperature region, in any engine operation history and environment change history, a condition that the oil-diluting fuel has no influence, namely, a state in which the oil-diluting fuel has no influence can be detected.

[0089]

(2) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in item (1), the oil-diluting fuel index is set so as to be variable according to the engine temperature history. Thereby, the oil-diluting fuel quantity can be

estimated more exactly.

[0090]

(3) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in item (1) or (2), the apparatus includes increase quantity calculating means for calculating the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel and decrease quantity calculating means for calculating the decrease quantity of oil-diluting fuel, and, after the oil-diluting fuel index is updated by using the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel and the decrease quantity of oil-diluting fuel, the oil-diluting fuel quantity is calculated in accordance with the updated oil-diluting fuel index. Thereby, the evaporation quantity of oil-diluting fuel from the engine oil is also taken into account, so that the oil-diluting fuel quantity can be estimated more accurately.

[0091]

(4) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in item (3), the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel calculated by the increase quantity calculating means is calculated in accordance with the engine temperature, engine rotational speed, and engine load.

[0092]

(5) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in item (3), the increase quantity of oil-diluting fuel calculated by the increase quantity calculating means is added uniformly to the oil-diluting fuel indexes.

[0093]

(6) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in any one of items (3) to (5), the decrease quantity of oil-diluting fuel calculated by the decrease quantity calculating means is calculated in accordance with the engine temperature and engine rotational speed.

[0094]

(7) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in any one of items (1) to (6), the temperature of engine oil is used as the engine temperature.

[0095]

(8) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in any one of items (1) to (7), the apparatus includes an alcohol concentration calculating means, and an alcohol concentration calculation permitting condition for permitting the calculation of alcohol concentration is set in accordance with the oil-diluting fuel quantity when a fuel in which alcohol is mixed in gasoline is used. Therefore, the inflow of oil-diluting fuel into the engine oil and the evaporation of oil-diluting fuel from the engine oil become constant, so that the alcohol concentration can be calculated accurately.

[0096]

(9) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in item (8), when by the alcohol concentration calculation permitting condition, at least either one of the condition that the oil-diluting fuel quantity is not larger than a predetermined value and the condition that a

variation in oil-diluting fuel quantity is not larger than a predetermined value is satisfied, the calculation of alcohol concentration is permitted.

[0097]

(10) In the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in any one of items (1) to (9), the oil-diluting fuel quantity is corrected in accordance with the quantity of fuel injected actually from the engine.

[0098]

(11) The internal combustion engine control system corrects the fuel injection quantity in accordance with the oil-diluting fuel quantity calculated by the oil-diluting fuel estimating apparatus described in any one of items (1) to (10). Thereby, a proper air-fuel ratio can be realized.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Figure 1]

An explanatory view showing a schematic configuration of an internal combustion engine control system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[Figure 2]

A flowchart showing a control flow in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention.

[Figure 3]

An explanatory view schematically showing an oil-diluting fuel quantity table TOF.

[Figure 4]

A flowchart showing a control flow of a first

subroutine shown in Figure 2.

[Figure 5]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of the MOFD map.

[Figure 6]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of a load correction table.

[Figure 7]

A flowchart showing a control flow of a second subroutine shown in Figure 2.

[Figure 8]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of the MOFU map.

[Figure 9]

A flowchart showing control of prediction of a cylinder wall temperature TC.

[Figure 10]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of the MTCH map.

[Figure 11]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of the KTC map.

[Figure 12]

A flowchart showing control of prediction of an oil temperature TO.

[Figure 13]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example

of a TTWS calculation table.

[Figure 14]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of a TTCT calculation table.

[Figure 15]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of a TTCN calculation table.

[Figure 16]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of a TTAVSP calculation table.

[Figure 17]

A flowchart showing a control flow in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

[Figure 18]

A flowchart showing a control flow in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention.

[Figure 19]

An explanatory view showing a characteristic example of an alcohol concentration calculation table.

[Explanation of Reference Numerals]

- 1 ... engine body
- 2 ... combustion chamber
- 3 ... intake valve
- 4 ... intake air passage
- 5 ... exhaust valve
- 6 ... exhaust passage
- 7 ... air cleaner

- 8 ... air flowmeter
- 9 ... throttle valve
- 11 ... fuel injection valve
- 12 ... engine control unit
- 13 ... oxygen concentration sensor
- 14 ... three-way catalyst
- 15 ... water temperature sensor
- 16 ... crank angle sensor
- 17 ... outside air temperature sensor
- 18 ... vehicle speed sensor

[Name of Document] Abstract

[Abstract]

[Problem] To detect a condition that an oil-diluting fuel has no influence.

[Solution] An oil-diluting fuel quantity estimating apparatus for calculating the quantity of oil-diluting fuel that leaks out through a clearance between a piston and a cylinder and dilutes engine oil is characterized in that the oil-diluting fuel quantity is calculated in accordance with an oil-diluting fuel index set for each predetermined temperature region of engine.

[Selected Figure] None



[Name of Document] Drawings

[Figure 1]

I/O PORT

- 1 ... ENGINE BODY
- 2 ... COMBUSTION CHAMBER
- 3 ... INTAKE VALVE
- 4 ... INTAKE AIR PASSAGE
- 5 ... EXHAUST VALVE
- 6 ... EXHAUST PASSAGE
- 7 ... AIR CLEANER
- 8 ... AIR FLOWMETER
- 9 ... THROTTLE VALVE
- 11 ... FUEL INJECTION VALVE
- 12 ... ENGINE CONTROL UNIT
- 13 ... OXYGEN CONCENTRATION SENSOR
- 14 ... THREE-WAY CATALYST
- 15 ... WATER TEMPERATURE SENSOR
- 16 ... CRANK ANGLE SENSOR
- 17 ... OUTSIDE AIR TEMPERATURE SENSOR
- 18 ... VEHICLE SPEED SENSOR

[Figure 2]

- S1: CALCULATE INCREASE QUANTITY A OF OIL-DILUTING FUEL QUANTITY (FIRST SUBROUTINE)
- S2: CALCULATE DECREASE RATE B OF OIL-DILUTING FUEL QUANTITY (SECOND SUBROUTINE)
- S3: WHOLE REGION OF TABLE TOF

NEW VALUE = OLD VALUE + A
S4: REGION NOT HIGHER THAN OIL TEMPERATURE T_o
NEW VALUE = OLD VALUE - OLD VALUE \times B
S5: CALCULATE OIL-DILUTING FUEL OF

[Figure 3]

OIL DILUTION QUANTITY
OIL TEMPERATURE
JUST AFTER STARTING
TRANSFER IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROGRESS OF WARMING UP
AFTER COMPLETED WARMING UP

[Figure 4]

S11: DETERMINE OIL FALL RATE C FROM MOFD MAP
S12: DETERMINE LOAD CORRECTION RATIO D FROM LOAD CORRECTION
TABLE
S13: INCREASE QUANTITY $A = T_e \times C \times D \times N_e$

[Figure 5]

MOFD MAP
TEMPERATURE T_C
LOW
FUEL FALL RATE C
HIGH

[Figure 6]

LOAD CORRECTION TABLE

[Figure 7]

S21: DETERMINE DECREASE RATE FROM MOFU MAP

[Figure 8]

MOFU MAP

TEMPERATURE TO

HIGH

DECREASE RATE B

LOW

[Figure 9]

S31: STARTING TIME OR ECU FIRST ENERGIZATION TIME ?

S33: FUEL CUTOFF ?

S35: DETERMINE TEMPERATURE INCREASE BALANCE TEMPERATURE TCH
FROM MTCH MAP

S36: DETERMINE TEMPERATURE CHANGE RATE (TIME CONSTANT) KTC
FROM KTC MAP

S37: CALCULATE PREDICTED TEMPERATURE DTC

$$DTC_n = DTC_{n-1} + (TCH - DTC_{n-1}) \times KTC$$

[Figure 10]

MTCH MAP

Tp (LOAD)

HIGH

TEMPERATURE INCREASE BALANCE TEMPERATURE THC

LOW

[Figure 11]

KTC MAP

HIGH

TEMPERATURE CHANGE RATE KTC

LOW

[Figure 12]

S41: STARTING TIME OR ECU FIRST ENERGIZATION TIME ?

S43: READ TTWS FROM MAP, AND CALCULATE HEAT FLOW QUANTITY
TTW OF ENGINE OIL AND COOLING WATER

$$TTW_n = (Tw - TO_{n-1}) \times TTWS$$

S44: READ TTCT AND TTCN FROM MAPS, AND CALCULATE HEAT FLOW
QUANTITY TTC OF ENGINE OIL AND COMBUSTION

$$TTC_n = (TTCT - TO_{n-1}) \times TTCN$$

S45: READ FLOW VELOCITY TERM TTAVSP FOR HEAT TRANSMISSION
FROM MAP, AND CALCULATE HEAT RELEASE QUANTITY TTA TO OUTSIDE
AIR

$$TTA_n = (TO_{n-1} - Ta) \times TTAVSP$$

[Figure 13]

TTWS CALCULATION TABLE

[Figure 14]

TTCT CALCULATION TABLE

[Figure 15]

TTCN CALCULATION TABLE

[Figure 16]

TTAVSP CALCULATION TABLE

[Figure 17]

S51: CALCULATE BASE FUEL INJECTION QUANTITY T_p

S52: CALCULATE AIR-FUEL RATIO CORRECTION COEFFICIENT KMR
FROM ENGINE ROTATIONAL SPEED AND THROTTLE VALVE OPENING
DEGREE

S53: CALCULATE WATER TEMPERATURE ENRICHMENT COEFFICIENT KTW
FROM COOLING WATER TEMPERATURE T_w

S54: CALCULATE TARGET FUEL-AIR RATIO EQUIVALENCE QUANTITY
 $TFBYA$ BY USING OIL FALL RATE C , LOAD CORRECTION RATIO D , AND
CORRECTION COEFFICIENT GUB

$$TFBYA = 1 + KMR + KTR + (C \times D \times GUB)$$

S55: CALCULATE FUEL INJECTION QUANTITY T_e

$$T_e = T_p \times TFBYA \times \alpha \times \alpha_m \times KTR$$

S56: CALCULATE FUEL INJECTION PULSE WIDTH T_i

$$T_i = T_e \times KWJ + T_s$$

S57: OUTPUT T_i

[Figure 18]

S61: READ α

S62: CALCULATE OIL-DILUTING FUEL QUANTITY OF FROM TO BY
USING TOF TABLE

S64: ANOTHER LEARNING CONDITION SATISFIED ?

S65: REWRITE α_m MAP VALUE

S66: REFER TO α_m MAP

S67: CALCULATE OIL-DILUTING FUEL QUANTITY OF FROM TO BY
USING TOF TABLE

S69: ANOTHER PERMITTING CONDITION SATISFIED ?

S70: ESTIMATE ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION FROM AVERAGE OF α_m
USING MAP

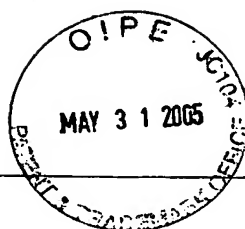
S71: DIAGNOSIS LOWER LIMIT VALUE < AVERAGE OF α_m <
DIAGNOSIS UPPER LIMIT VALUE ?

S72: DIAGNOSIS OK

S73: DIAGNOSIS NG

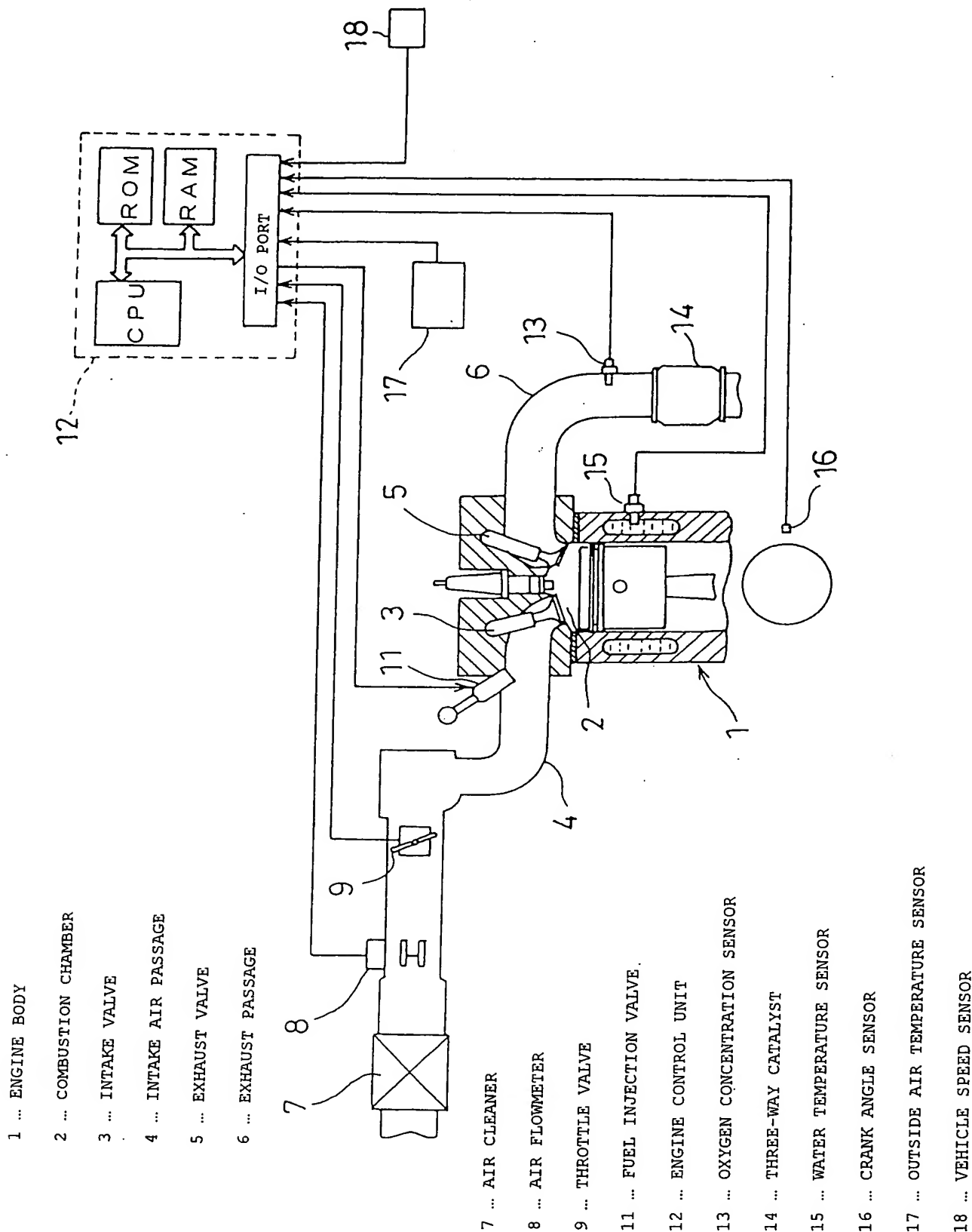
[Figure 19]

ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION ALC
AVERAGE OF α_m

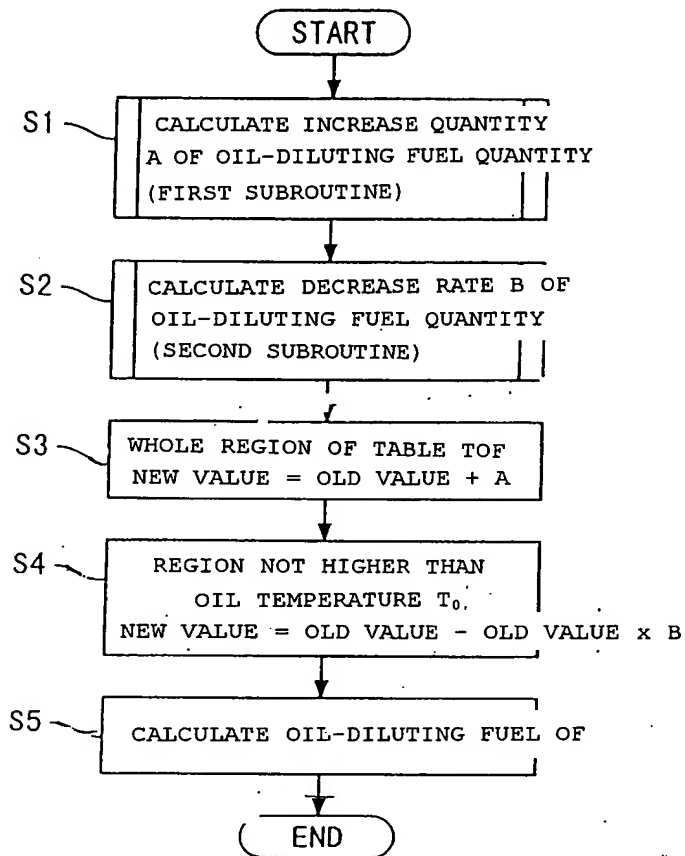


[Name of Document] Drawings

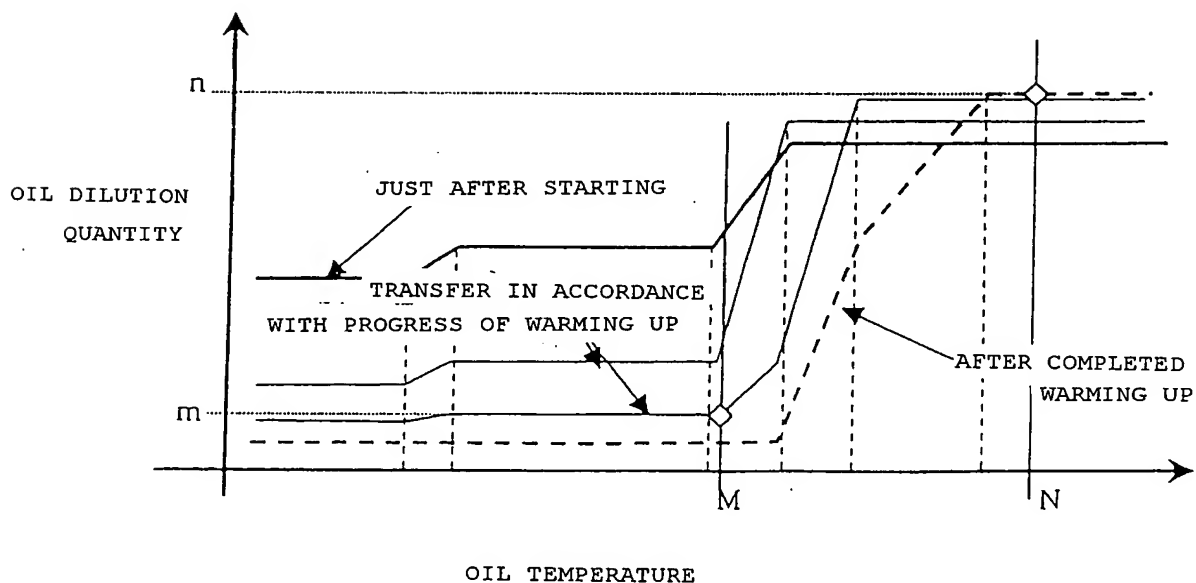
[Figure 1]



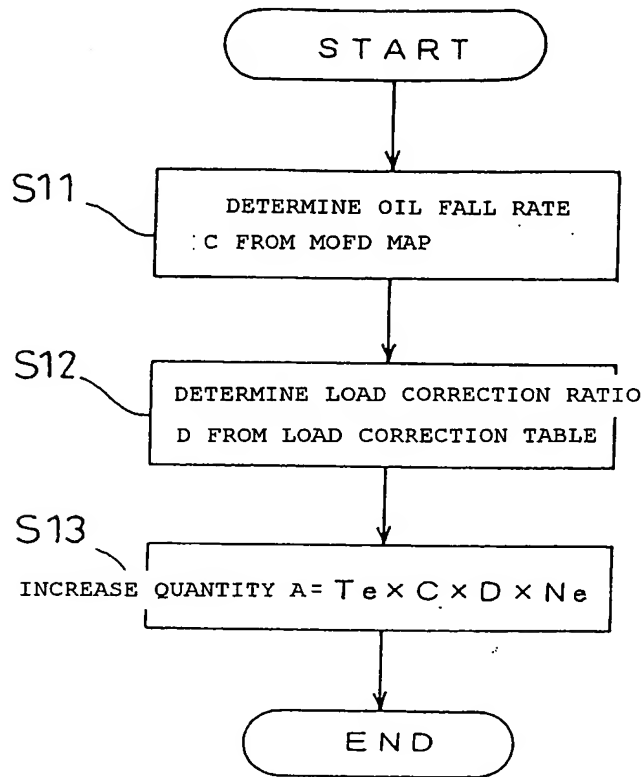
[Figure 2]



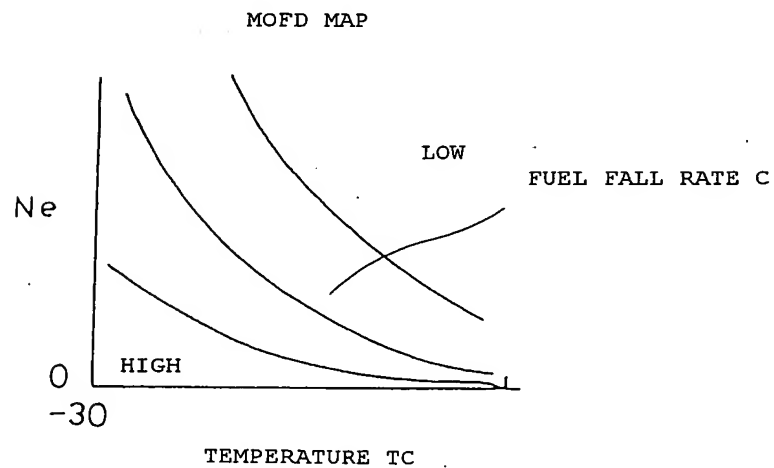
[Figure 3]



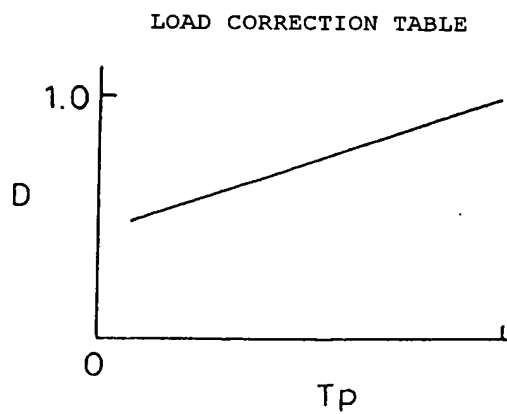
[Figure 4]



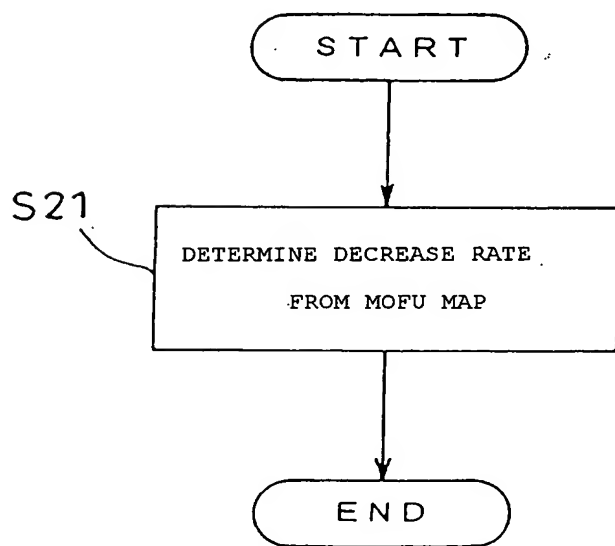
[Figure 5]



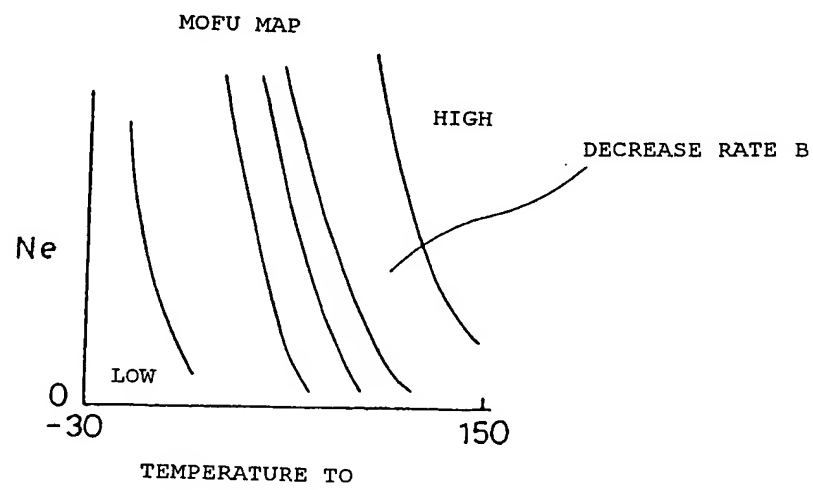
[Figure 6]



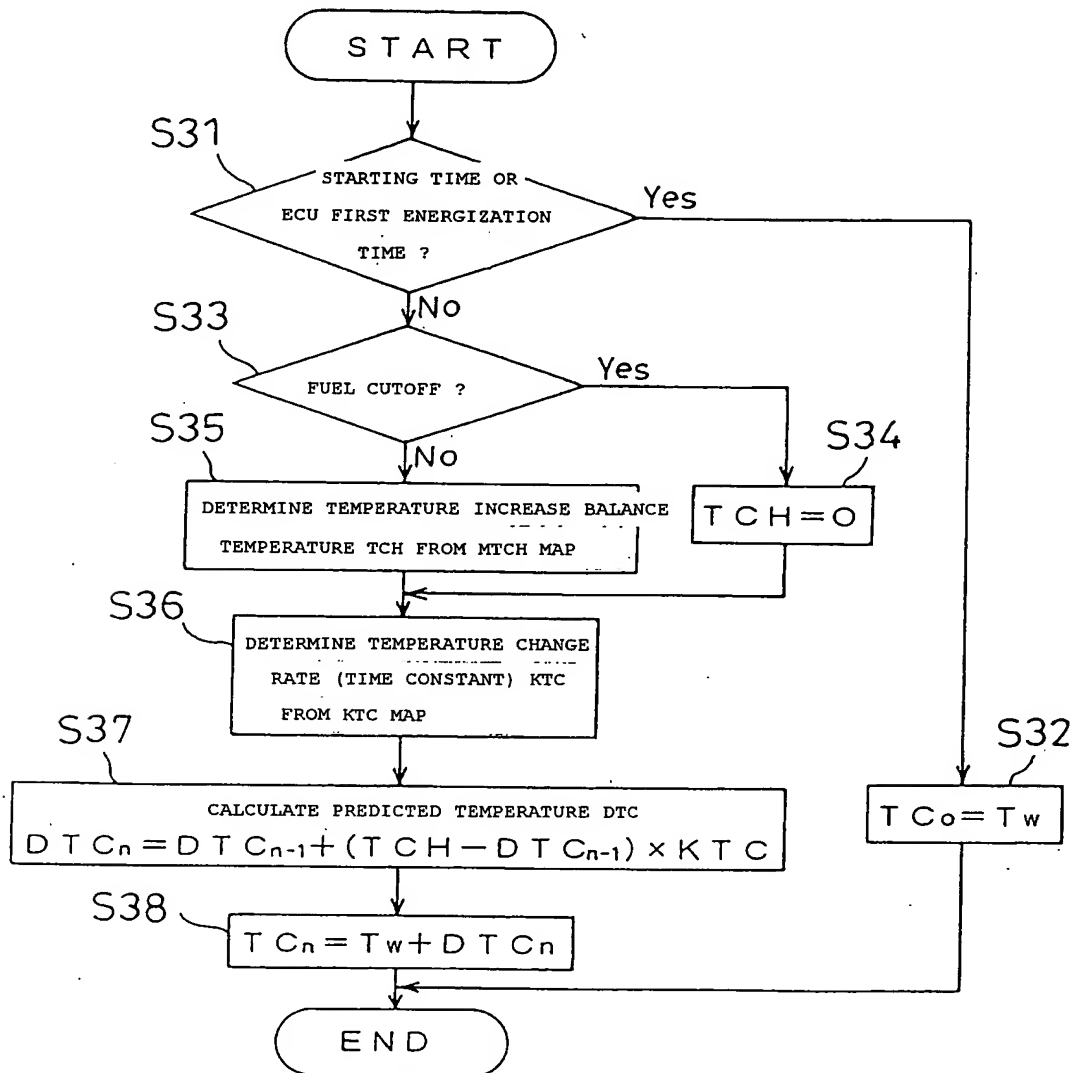
[Figure 7]



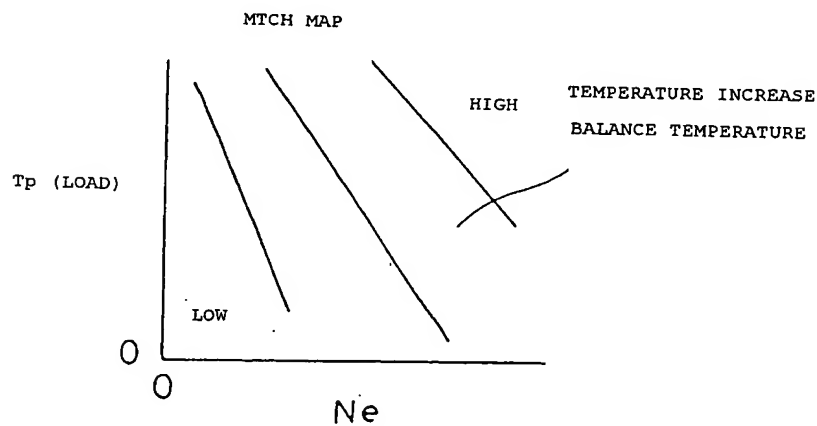
[Figure 8]



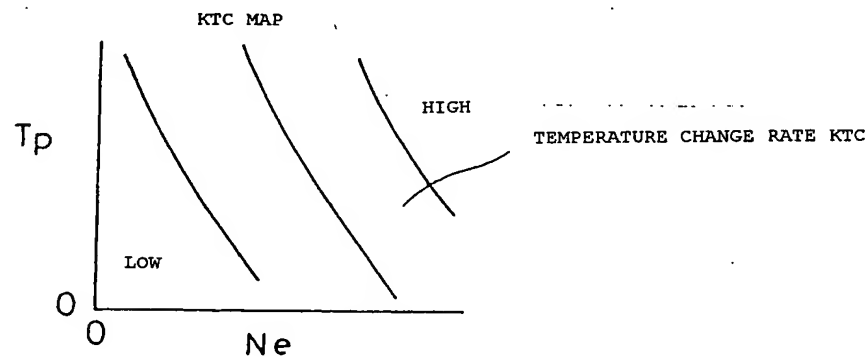
[Figure 9]



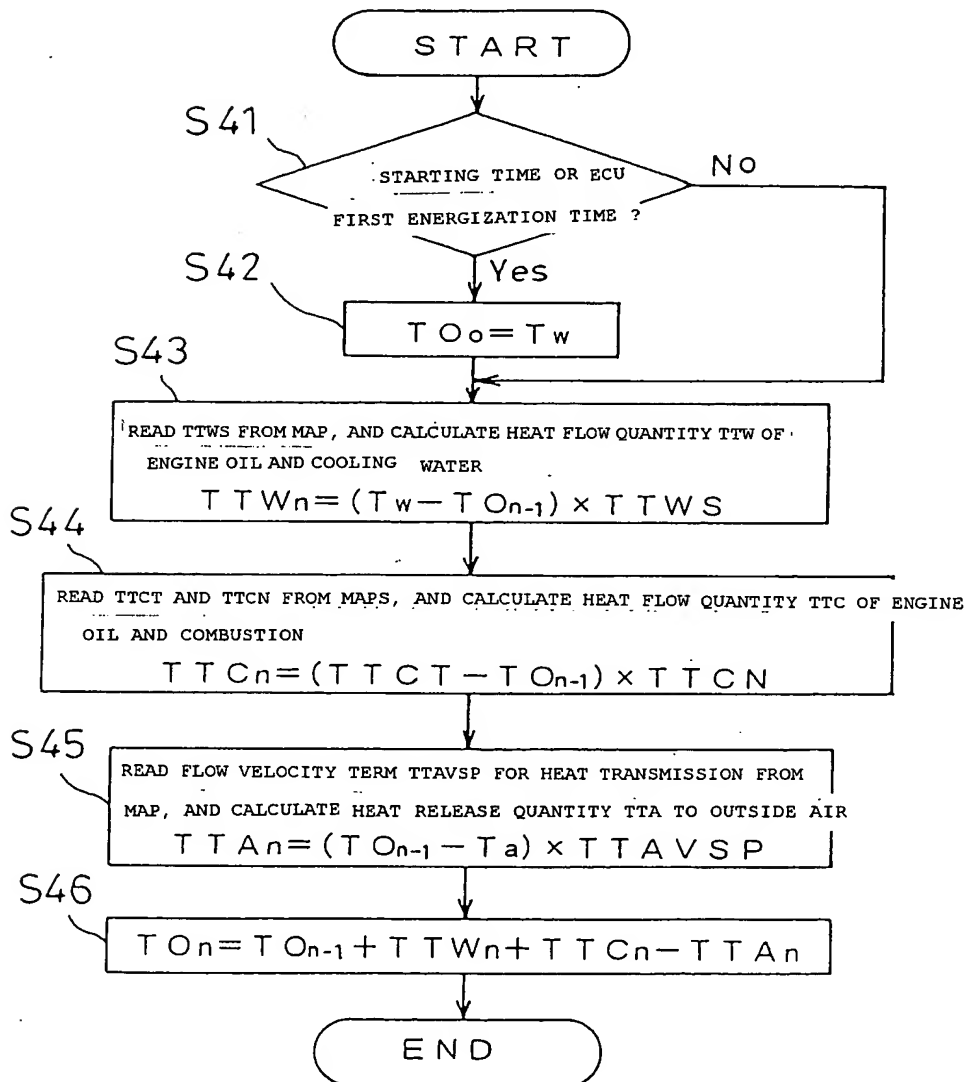
[Figure 10]



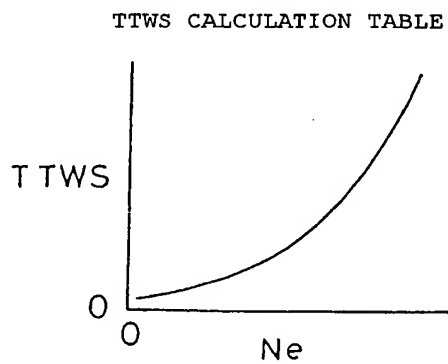
[Figure 11]



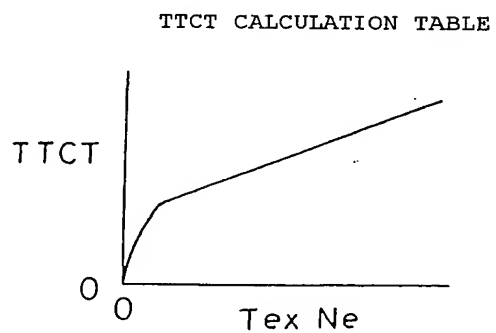
[Figure 12]



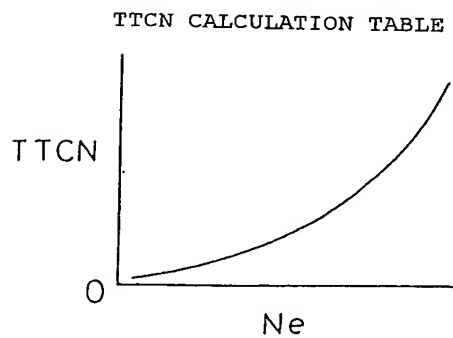
[Figure 13]



[Figure 14]

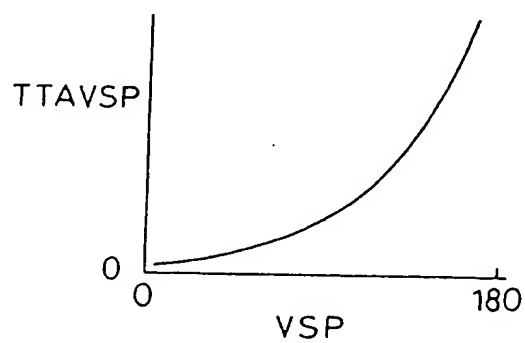


[Figure 15]

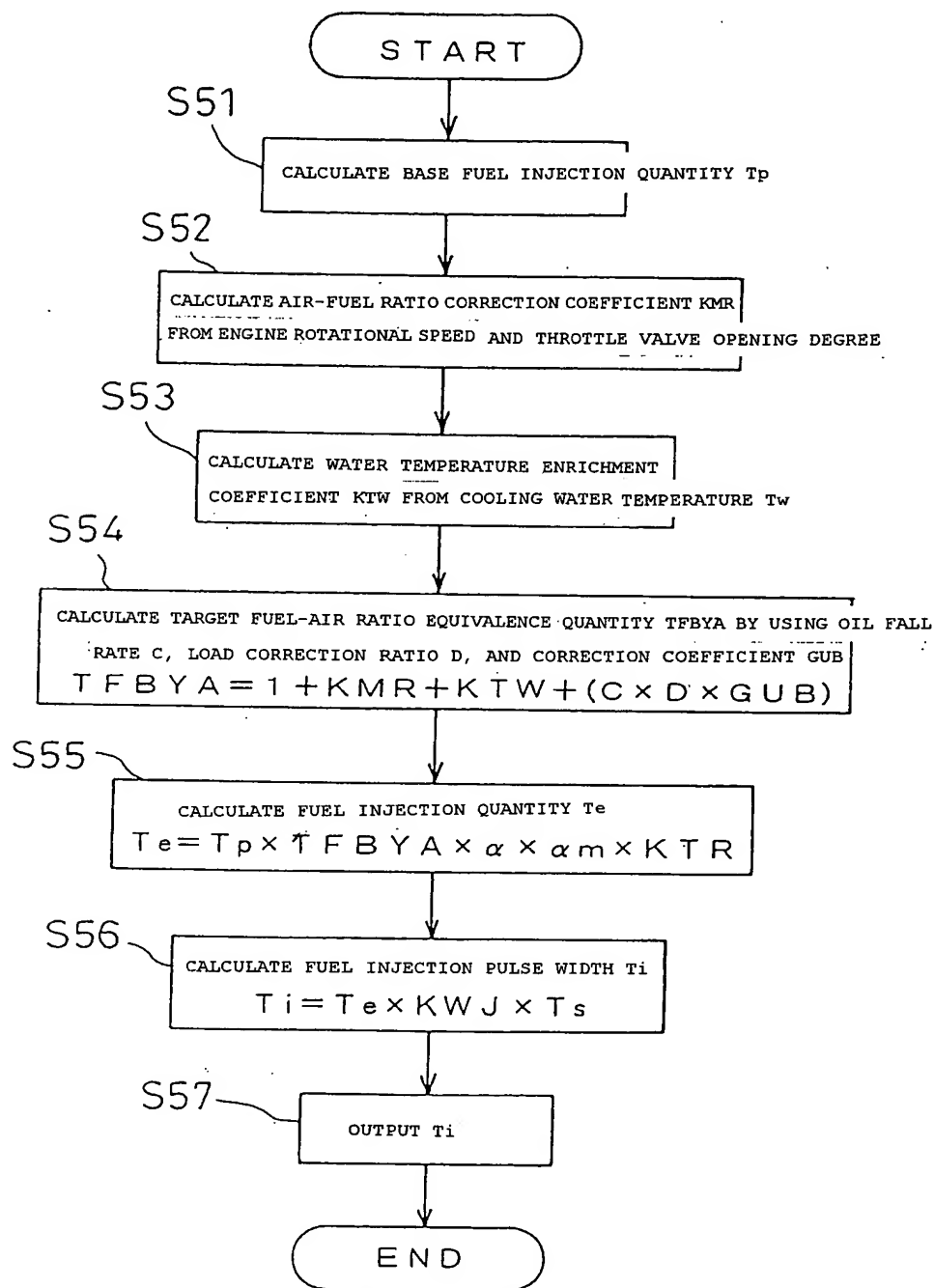


[Figure 16]

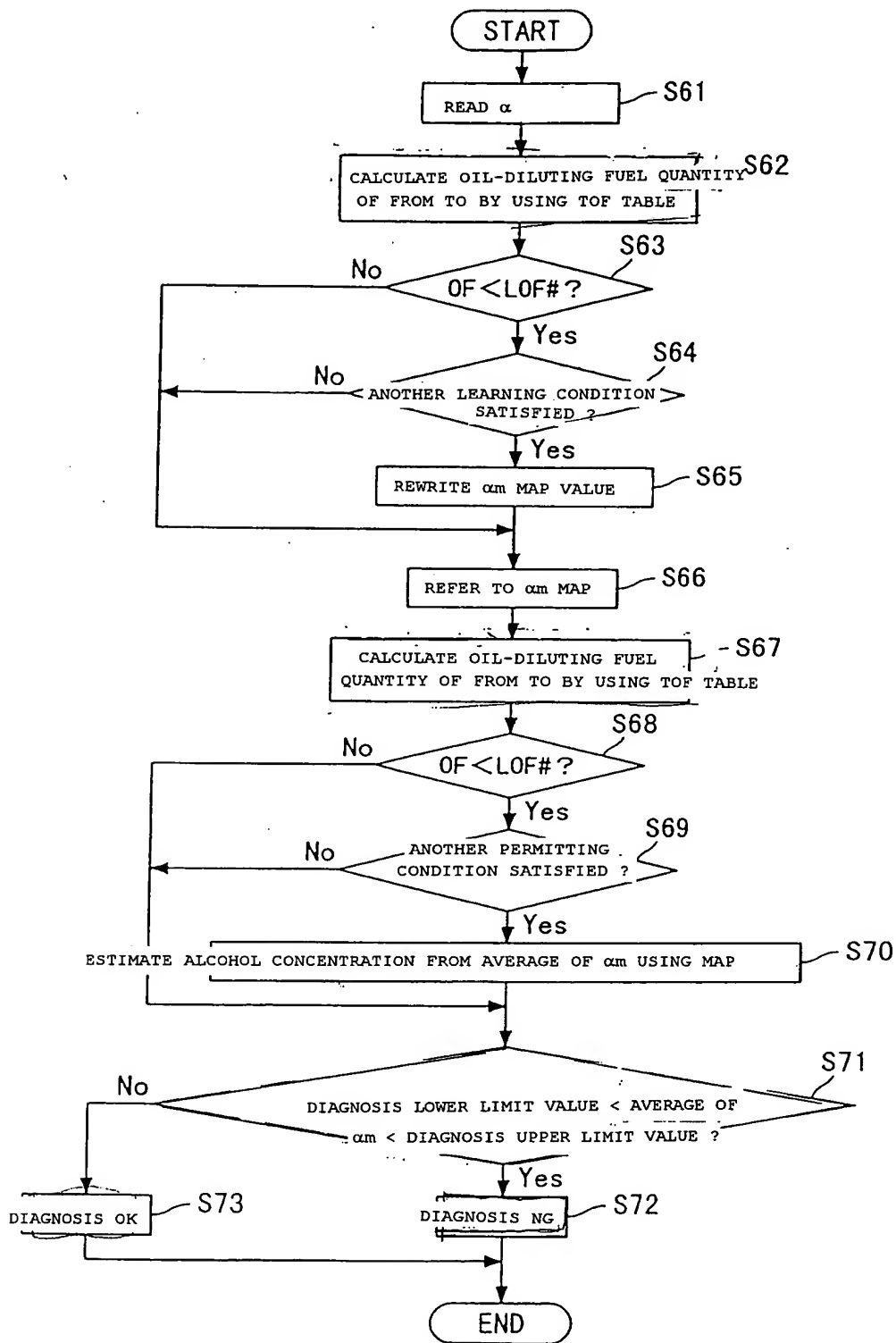
TTAVSP CALCULATION TABLE



[Figure 17]



[Figure 18]



[Figure 19]

